



VOICE

News from the Fremont Area Community Foundation

Summer 2010
Vol. 21, No. 2

In this Newsletter:

- Legacy Society Dinner
- New Members Join FAF Board of Directors
- North Bend Area Community Foundation Celebrates 10th Anniversary
- Grants Awarded
- Scholarships Awarded
- Endowment Challenge Organizations for 2010
- Note from the Executive Director
- Message from the President

**Fremont Area
Community
Foundation, Inc.**

P.O. Box 182
Fremont, NE 68026-0182
402-721-4252
Fax: 402-721-9359
www.facfoundation.org
info@facfoundation.org



Legacy Society Dinner Remembers & Honors Members

The Fremont Area Community Foundation held its annual Legacy Society Dinner at the Fremont Golf Club on June 16.

Past President Tom Thomsen began the evening by thanking everyone for their generosity to the Foundation. Thomsen also stressed the importance of these gifts. "The Legacy Society is vital to the future of the Foundation. Many of the gifts support the Unrestricted Endowment Fund. As this fund continues to grow, so does the number of grants the Foundation is able to give to the community," Thomsen said. Marv Welstead was also recognized for his efforts on building the Legacy Society over the years.



Lynda Raasch, Jim Ebers, Mike Raasch, Gordy Bryant and Mike Bryant talk at the FAF Legacy Society Dinner. Gordy Bryant and Mike Raasch were two featured speakers at the dinner.

Jessica Janssen, executive director of the Foundation, spoke about some of the highlights of the Foundation over the past year, including the 30th anniversary. The Foundation added a record number of 23 new funds. "2010 has been a year of celebration for the Fremont Area Community Foundation as we commemorate our 30th year. We celebrate along with the donors who had and continue to have the generosity and foresight, which allows us the privilege of impacting the community through grants, scholarships and valuable partnerships. This impact truly affects the quality of life for all citizens in the Fremont area," Janssen said.

One of those new funds established was the Jack Bryant Memorial Scholarship. The Bryant family established the scholarship fund in memory of Jack Bryant, Fremont High School educator and coach. Gordy Bryant, Jack's nephew, spoke about his uncle and the scholarship. Mike Raasch, Fremont Learning Center educator and coach, past Rotary Teacher of the Year recipient and former player for Coach Bryant, also spoke during the program.

The family of Al and Patti Bahe were honored during the evening. Mr. and Mrs. Bahe were remembered as respected educators, mentors and community members who made an impact on so many in their lifetime. They continue to do so through their family and the establishment of a scholarship in their memory. Lindsey Smrcina, recipient of the Al and Patti Bahe Memorial Scholarship and the Fremont PTA/PTSA Scholarship, also spoke during the program about her experiences as a student and future plans.

Ten new members were recognized for joining the Legacy Society. The new Legacy Society Members are: David and Kristine Gale, Dr. Greg and Mary Haskins, Robert and Dian Hillis, Russ and Jennifer Peterson and Bill and Cathy Saeger.

The mission of the Fremont Area Community Foundation is to improve the quality of life by connecting donor interests with community needs.

Foundation Awards Recent Grants

The following are grants for the community from the Fremont Area Community Foundation:

- **Keep Fremont Beautiful** – A grant for \$860 was awarded from the Fremont Area Community Foundation for the purchase of portable recycling kits. These will help develop a project to address cigarette litter waste; improve the capture of roadway litter and improve recycling access and awareness in the Fremont community.
- **Friends of Fremont Area Parks, Inc.** – A grant for \$10,000 was awarded from the Fremont Area Community Foundation for the start of the first phase of an all-inclusive play area with technology necessary for wheelchair accessibility. Milliken Park has been selected as the place to start as they currently have numerous children with physical limitations enrolled at the school.
- **Fremont Area Art Association, Inc.** – A grant for \$10,000 was awarded from the Fremont Area Community Foundation to assist with the major effort to bring the art gallery back to a condition that will allow the use of the entire building.
- **John C. Fremont Days, Inc.** – A grant for \$5,000 from the Fremont Area Community Foundation was awarded to John C. Fremont Days toward the expansion of the programming at the Chautauqua Tent.
- **Calvin Crest Camp, Conference and Retreat Center, Inc.** – A grant for \$2,200 was awarded from the Fremont Area Community Foundation for the purchase of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator).

Scholarships Awarded for the 2010-11 Academic Year

This spring, 51 scholarships were awarded for a total of \$29,475.

- **Al and Patti Bahe Memorial Scholarship**
Lindsey Smrcina
- **Allyssa, Sheldon & Mariah Johnson Memorial Scholarship**
Mattie Kramme
- **Bruce Gocken Memorial Business Scholarship**
Brittany Muller
- **Cedar Bluffs Education Foundation Scholarship**
Natalie Burcham, Brian Dunker, Kaitlin McGrath, Rachel Salyers, Kealy Schilke
- **Cecil Anderson Fremont Kiwanis Club Scholarship**
Kyle Matzen
- **Cecil Anderson Midland Lutheran College Fremont Kiwanis Club Scholarship**
Alex Everly
- **Dodge County Humane Society Scholarship**
Courtney Cook, Alicia Schott
- **Emmett & Mae Johnson Memorial Scholarship**
Julie Ann Davis
- **Francis Conrad Memorial Scholarship**
Tessa Klein
- **Grant & Muriel Freeman Vocational Fremont Kiwanis Club Scholarship**
Alyssa Pierce
- **Freeman Midland Lutheran College Fremont Kiwanis Club Scholarship**
Ryan Ruf, Brittney Schaller
- **Fremont Area Art Association Hazel Keene Memorial Scholarship**
Merrick Price
- **Fremont Business & Professional Women's Scholarship**
Lorri Boye, Mattie Kramme, Danae Sunderman
- **Fremont High School Alumni Student Aid Endowment**
Miranda Hoschiet, Karrie Thompson
- **E.V. "Vic" & Lois Nielsen Fremont Noon Optimists Scholarship**
Jordan Ruskamp
- **Fremont PTA/PTSA Scholarship**
Sunny Arnold, Emily Essen, James Plank, Lindsey Smrcina
- **Golden K Kiwanis Harold Anderson Scholarship**
Kaden Lassek, Anna Lindell
- **H.M. "Micky" Krupinsky Scholarship**
Kurtis Kammerer, Kyle Thompson
- **Haines Hill Memorial Scholarship**
Kari Schmitz
- **Jack R. Bryant Memorial Scholarship**
Curtis Leick, Trevor Strong
- **Jamie Charleston Memorial Scholarship**
Jessica Spalding, James Young
- **Keith Hindmarsh Memorial Scholarship**
Adam Maas, Claire Volk
- **LaVern F. Lueschen Scholarship**
Ryan Ruf
- **Loran & Ina Deane Rogers Memorial Scholarship**
Elizabeth Milan
- **Loren Nothwehr Scholarship**
Tasha Raymond
- **Marvin G. Welstead Scholarship**
Alex Kortan
- **Mary Ellen Wieland Scholarship**
Stephanie Arbaugh
- **Matthew Hartmann Memorial Scholarship**
Seth Koertner
- **Myra Rogier Lesiak Scholarship**
Grace Pflingston
- **Robert Yanike Scholarship**
Emily Essen
- **Rodney & Amy Mueller Johnson Memorial Scholarship**
Jodi Popken, Jessica Spalding
- **Ruth I. Frederiksen Memorial Scholarship**
Jordan Ruskamp
- **Sherlock Nursing Scholarship**
Tessa Pieper

FACF Continues Endowment Challenge Grant Program

The Fremont Area Community Foundation continues to support the community beyond providing competitive grants through the development of endowment funds. "We are pleased to be able to offer endowment challenge grants to selected organizations which serve the Fremont area," said Jessica Janssen, executive director of the Foundation. "The Fremont Area Community Foundation is dedicated to helping area organizations become sustainable and build funds to support the future growth of their organizations."

The "Building for the Future" campaign is again offering matching grants of \$10,000 to five local non-profit organizations to either begin a new endowment fund with the Fremont Area Community Foundation or to grow an existing endowment fund with the Foundation. The organizations will have one year to raise new

funds to receive the match of \$10,000. "We selected the Fremont Area Art Association, Fremont Area United Way, Fremont Public Schools Foundation, Friends of Keene Memorial Library and the Team Mates Mentoring Program," said Tom Thomsen, past president of the Foundation. "While it was again a challenge to select these organizations, we believe they all have a strong Board of Directors and volunteers to help them be successful in raising the matching funds."

The Fremont Area Community Foundation believes that endowment funds are key to the long-term future of an organization. Endowment funds are permanent funds held with the Foundation in perpetuity for the organization. The income generated from the funds is used to support the organization and its programs. For more information, visit www.facfoundation.org.

North Bend Area Community Foundation Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The North Bend Area Community Foundation (NBACF) is celebrating its 10-year anniversary in 2010. The NBACF Board promoted the anniversary with a float during the Old Settler's parade in June. The float was not only to celebrate the anniversary but also to create awareness of the NBACF.

The organization formed 10 years ago as an affiliate fund with the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Over the years, contributions have helped grow its endowment funds. This means over \$14,000 in grants have been given back to the North Bend area. Grants have been awarded for everything from helping landscape the Morse Bluff Park to new music for the North Bend Community Band. Funds have helped with recycling efforts, youth sports, improvements at the North Bend Senior Center and contributing to bring noted children's book authors to North Bend Elementary. A recent grant helped bring Nebraska astronaut Clayton Anderson to speak at North Bend Central. The Foundation has also pledged \$10,000 to help build a new North Bend Public Library.

"Because of the generosity of many donors, the Foundation has grown stronger and is in a position to help improve North Bend into the future," Beth Vech, board member, said.

Donations to the North Bend Area Community Foundation can be sent to Platte Valley Bank, PO Box 500, North Bend, NE



The North Bend Area Community Foundation promoted its 10th anniversary with a float in the Old Settler's Parade. Justin Mensik, Colin Rogers, Michael Mensik and Ryan Rogers (not pictured) helped with the float and candy. The float was not only to celebrate the anniversary but also to create awareness of the Foundation.
(photo courtesy of Deanna Wolf)

68649. More information about the NBACF is also available on the Foundation's website at www.facfoundation.org in the affiliate funds section.

Source: *North Bend Eagle*, June 23, 2010 Issue

New Members Elected to FACF Board of Directors

The Fremont Area Community Foundation closed its fiscal year with the retirement of two members of the Board of Directors and with the announcement of the addition of two new Board of Directors members. "We would like to thank our dedicated members who have completed their terms," said Tom Thomsen, past president. Dr. Tom Waring and Kathy Rhea completed their terms on June 30. "These two individuals have been very active in the Foundation's accomplishments and have worked very hard to continue to grow the organization," Thomsen said. Each term is a three-year commitment of which Tom served three terms and Kathy served four terms. "We appreciate the commitment and talent that each of our Directors has shared through the years. The organization is strong because of the people who are willing to be involved in the community," said Jessica Janssen, executive director.

The Foundation also welcomes new Board of Directors members: Sheila Monke and Bill Ekeler. Monke is a life-long resident of the Arlington area. She currently serves as a substitute teacher for Arlington Public Schools and works on the family farm with

her husband, David. Monke is currently a Board president of the Crisis Center, a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and serves on the K.I.D.S. Committee at Arlington Public Schools. Sheila and David have a son, Adam, and a daughter, Kate.

Ekeler was born and raised in Blair and has lived in Fremont for the last 10 years. Ekeler graduated from the University of Nebraska and received a graduate degree from Harvard University. He is currently co-owner of Overland Products Corp., a family business, with his father, Jack. He is currently a member of the Boys Town Advisory Board, chairman of the Fremont Airport Advisory Board, a member of the Archbishop's Committee for Development, co-chair of St. Patrick's Development Council, a member of St. Patrick's Church and is heavily involved with Bergan Catholic Schools. Past involvement includes Fremont Planning Commission; YMCA Board, chair; Mayor's Immigration Task Force; and St. Patrick's Building Committee. Bill and his wife, Heather, have three sons: Ryan, Cole and Blake.



Nan Cunningham, John C. Fremont Days Board member; Jeff Hoffman, executive director of John C. Fremont Days; and Kim Taylor, FACF executive assistant, are pictured at John C. Fremont Days. A grant of \$5,000 was given from the Foundation to bring performing artists to the festival. The grant also supported programs of educational and historic nature and educational programming relating to the history of the Fremont community, Dodge County and the State of Nebraska.



Dee Bang and Marv Welstead, FACF Board Members, and Scribner Mayor Steve Swanson are pictured at the "Trombonisti" performance in Scribner in May. A grant of \$1,000 was given from the Foundation for the 2010 "Music in the Park" concert series. This year marks the second year for the series of four concerts to be performed in the Scribner park.

Note from New Executive Director, Jessica Janssen



Dear Friends and Supporters of the Fremont Area Community Foundation,

I hope that the summer finds you enjoying beautiful weather and sharing great moments with family and friends!

I was thrilled to join the Fremont Area Community Foundation as the new executive director in May. As a native of Fremont, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the community in new ways as I meet with area nonprofits, Foundation supporters and Board Members. In just the short time that I have been in this position, I have been reminded of the high quality programs and services that are offered to the Fremont area community and the immense leadership that is provided by community members and businesses. The Fremont area is truly a great place to live.

It has been a very exciting time to join the Foundation as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary in 2010. This spring the Foundation, in partnership with Fremont Parks and Recreation, planted 30 new trees at Christensen Field to commemorate this milestone. The Foundation also established five new "Field of Interest" endowment funds in the areas of education, arts and culture, civic improvement, social services, and health and recreation. These funds will provide support to organizations which serve these interest areas, beyond our competitive grant cycle. They also provide a unique opportunity for donors to give to a specific area that is close to their hearts, and they can see that investment grow along with others' gifts to make a large impact in the community.

The celebration of 30 years is a highlight in what I am confident will be a bright future for the Fremont Area Community Foundation! On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, please accept our sincere thanks for your past and continued support.

Sincerely,

Jessica L. Janssen
Executive Director

A Message from the President



The Fremont Area Community Foundation has experienced another successful year of growth and partnership with the community. As we reflect on the past 2009-10 year, we are pleased to report current assets of over \$11.3 million, with more than \$718,000 distributed to Fremont area community organizations through grants, scholarships and donor-advised funds. We were excited to increase the number of funds established with the Foundation, including the addition of five new "Field of Interest" endowment funds in the areas of education, arts and culture, social services, civic improvement, and health and recreation. We are pleased to continue to provide both increased opportunities for donors to effectively contribute to the communities we serve and increased grant and scholarship funding to the broad community.

"Give to Grow" has become our new motto as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary, and this simple phrase truly sums up the history of the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Many throughout the years have done just that, given of their time, talents and treasures to grow the Fremont Area Community Foundation to the thriving organization that it is today. The celebration of our 30th Anniversary is in tribute to the community, donors and leaders who have made this possible.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the service of Past-President Tom Thomsen and retiring Board Members Kathy Rhea and Dr. Tom Waring. The Foundation has experienced great seasons of growth under their leadership, and I welcome the community to join with us in thanking them for their service.

Steve Navarrette
FACF Board President

Fremont Area Community Foundation, Inc.

605 N. Broad Street, P.O. Box 182

Fremont, NE 68026-0182

www.facfoundation.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAIL U.S.A.

Book of Memories

Donors may establish a lasting memorial to honor the memory of a friend or relative, or to honor a special occasion, such as retirement, through a gift to the Book of Memories. The name of the person honored is inscribed in the "Book of Memories," an attractive, leather-bound volume displayed at the Keene Memorial Library.

In memory of:

- Patti Bahe
- Darlene Barry
- Allen Biesecker
- Margery Buch
- Willard D. Heyne
- Gordon Jenkins
- Thelma Liddell
- Grace Mahacek
- Mary C. Marsh
- J. Keith Murphy
- Ross H. Rasmussen
- Marjorie Saeger
- Jack Sutton



VOICE

News from the Fremont Area Community Foundation

Summer 2010

Vol. 21, No. 2

The Foundation Voice is published by the:

Fremont Area Community Foundation

605 N. Broad St.

P.O. Box 182

Fremont, NE 68026-0182

info@facfoundation.org

402-721-4252

- Steve Navarrette President
- Dick Hendriksen First Vice President
- Russ Peterson, Jr. Second Vice Pres./Secretary-Treasurer
- Jessica Janssen Executive Director
- Kimberly Taylor Executive Assistant
- Dianne Dyson Administrative Assistant